



Summer 2007

SCOUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.

2007 One World One Promise

<http://www.scouting.org.za/scoutingabout/>

0860SCOUTS

AS WE COME TO THE END OF 2007

We look back on a fantastic Centenary year of "The Movement", in this country and the rest of the world. Here, on 1st January, we were right into the Mafikeng "Scene" Rover Moot and the "Discover the Wilderness" the Cederberg Adventure, both attended by many Rovers and Scouts from overseas and our own Rovers and Scouts. Before we knew it we were into February and the many "B-P Birthday" Scouts Owns Dinners - Camps and other Adventures.

While all this was going on, Groups and individuals were into our "Gifts for Peace" activities. Big Walks Pioneering Extravanzas Kontiki weekends, all raising funds for HIV Projects and entertaining HIV orphans at these Scout happenings. Reports of "Gifts for Peace" activities on 1st December, HIV/Aids Day, must still come in as I write. From reports, there certainly will be some humdingers. July/August were the big months our

Jamboree Contingent flew off to Holland where they experienced home hospitality before arriving at Chelmsford UK, and joined the 40000 other Scouts in the largest Jamboree ever held. A number of our young Leaders went over separately to be part of the International Team that made the actual Jamboree happen. Smaller groups are reported to have attended other overseas activities as guests of those Scouting countries.

"Scouting's Sunrise" 1st August, our 100th birthday, was celebrated in all our Scout Areas. Reports of major gatherings in city centres and smaller, District and Group gatherings in all parts of the country, have come in.

A number of Area Jamborees have been held and others will take place in early December to complete this magnificent Scouting Year, a year that all Scouts and Cubs in this country will remember for a lifetime.

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUT AWARDS



Thomas Helmrich - Gauteng
Justin Templeton - Gauteng
Hamish Arendse - Cape Eastern
Clint Le Roux - Cape Eastern
Brent Shaw - Cape Eastern
Dean Wegerle - Mpumalanga

...WE GO INTO 2008 - SOUTH AFRICA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY



Pioneering Extravaganza - A Cape Eastern's Centenary activity, Port Elizabeth. The Shopping Centre gave Scouting their full support and the event turned into a major recruiting opportunity.



Clang! Bash! Bang! It was an early morning wake up for those still dreaming about last night. It was 05:30 am on 01 August 2007, the 100th birthday of scouting. I was on wake up duty on this cold yet exciting day. I walked past 19 tents and banged on pots and pans by the doors of tents to get every one to wake up.

Once we were up we waited for our Troop Scouter (adult leader) to come out of his tent for flag break. Flag break was done every morning; I would walk up, pull the main rope and then show a display of a three-finger salute while watching the South African flag open up in the breeze.

It was a great feeling to wake up that early - it was a stunning feeling to watch 2000 scouts of different nationalities slowly start to crawl out of their two-man tents. It was at 07:00 am that 2000 scouts from just our sub-camp were all standing ready in a bright and colourful scouting uniform with the same yellow edged scarf to show we were all part of the same worldwide record holding movement.

As the time drew closer to the Sunrise ceremony at 08:00 am we started to march into a globally used arena. This arena could hold 65 000 people of which 41 000 were proud, noisy scouts. There were over 2000 flags of different origins waving through the

air as we anticipated the biggest scout opening ceremony any human or country had ever experienced.

At the sunrise ceremony, Lord David Baden-Powell, Lord Robert Baden-Powell's grandson gave a scintillating and interesting speech and then visited with us. We were then privileged enough to watch a live feed from Brownsea Island where 2 scouts from every country gathered to re-enact the first ever scout camp held 100 years ago. Finally it came, 21 million scouts from all over the world said their version of the scout promise. In our arena, on the Jamboree site, to hear 55 000 people say the same Scout law and Promise simultaneously in 200 different languages was an indescribable feeling that just made you want to cry,
 "I promise to do my best,
 To do my duty to God and my Country
 To help other people at all times
 And to obey the Scout Law"

I even had tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat. This promise took on a whole new meaning for me that day. I am a part of something a lot bigger than just a group of boys having fun. I am proud of being a scout and not just any Scout but one of the BEST Scouts. On this day I understood that to be and do the best, I have to persevere, work hard and never give up no matter how hard the task is. As the eighth Scout law states: A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties. Scout Law number 4 states: A scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout. This once again reminded me of how the Scout laws and Promise relate to each other. As Helena from Poland said, "Today means all of the scouts that have made friends over the past 100 years will be together in spirit". This summed up the Brotherhood of Scouts!

The day was then continued with a new scarf handed out with a challenge to gain over 300 signatures from people we did not know once again an activity relating to the Brotherhood and friendships of the Scouting world.

The 12 days were completed with fun filled activities such as splash (canoeing), trash (recycling),

Gilwell Park (obstacle course, rock climbing, slip and slide, bouldering, bmxing, skateboards, etc) and energize. The evenings were filled with celebrations in the form of parties, discos, campfires fireworks and a lot more. There were 17 sub-camps filled with 2500 scouts each. There was a stage in each sub-camp, which had 2 full-time DJ's that allowed us to party till 23:00 pm each evening.

Reluctantly 23H00, we would all creep into tents for the night! Curfew time!

As we lay in our warm sleeping bags, we could hear the rumble, rumble, rumble ... it would draw nearer and then silence as we all fell asleep from an exhausting day's activities. The rumble was that of trucks that would start their night's work ...

For our safety everyone would have to be in bed. If not you had a really good chance of being run over by these "monsters" as they went about their deliveries.

After 12 days of an awesome, exciting and unbelievable experience it was time for the closing ceremony. The final day really went off with a bang, with 30 minutes of fire works and dancers from every country. It was unfortunately also the end of a sunny tour. As the heavens opened on our final ceremony, it was great to see 70 000 people all dancing and creating a great time in the rain. We were privileged to see the passing of the World Scout Flag from Great Britain to the next World Scout Jamboree organizing country, which is Sweden who will host the 2011 World Jamboree.

This was truly an eye opening experience and made me feel proud to be a Scout, to be part of a worldwide organisation and extremely proud to wear my South African colours and represent my country. I am part of the largest and longest running youth organisation ever to exist.

This was an indescribable experience and will never be forgotten but will definitely be repeated in 2011 in Sweden.

An essay by Terrence Vrugtman - a Scout of Umgeni Troop.

DUTY TO GOD



YOU NEVER CAN HIDE YOURSELF FROM YOU!

The following was recently read at a Scout's Own at camp.

*I have to live with myself and so,
 I want to be fit for myself to know.
 I want to be able as years go by,
 Always to look myself straight in the eye.
 I don't want to stand with the setting sun,
 And hate myself for the things I've done.
 I want to be out with my head erect,
 I want to deserve all men's respect.
 For here in the struggle for fame and self
 I want to be able to like myself.
 I don't want to look at myself and know,
 That I'm bluster and bluff and empty and show.
 I can never hide myself from me,
 I see what others may never see.
 I know what others may never know.
 Whatever happens, I want to be
 Self-Respecting and Conscience free.*

- author unknown



MPULALANGA SCOUTS CAMP AT GERMAN PRESIDENT'S CASTLE

Eight Scouts, boys and girls, from Scouting Mpumalanga were able to camp in the garden of the President of Germany's castle "Bellevue", in Berlin during September. As part of Scouting's Centenary year the South Africans joined Scouts from Germany, Kazakhstan, Serbia, France, Jordan, Poland, Bolivia and Rwanda on an invitation from Germany. They met the President, Horst Koehler, who informed them he had been a Scout himself when a child, and how much of an impact, that experience, had made on his life. Ulanda Mthimkhulu, one of the South African Scouts, had the chance to respond to the President in his speech.

After lunch, in the big black German tents the President joined them for a South African presentation of Scouting. They sang "Avulekile Amasango" and performed the "Gumbodance", then dished out some pap and chakalaka.

Part of their experience was the handing over of their "Prepared into future" development project to Karin Kortmann, the states Secretary for the Department of Economic Cooperation and Development, together with Scouts from Rwanda, Kazakhstan and Bolivia. Besides their many great experiences, they were able to demonstrate to many important people, what Scouting's 100 year existence had done and was doing throughout the entire world.



From l to r: Sandile Sambo, Sandra Mayer, Elvis Mdaka and Uwe Bothur performing "Avulekile Amasango" for the German President, Horst Koehler.

1ST SASOLBURG SCOUTS HAVE RADIO FUN ON YOUTH DAY.

As part of their Youth day program, the 1st Sasolburg Scouts made contact with a Scout leader in Eindhoven, Netherlands, assisted by members of the Sasolburg Radio Club.

An Echolink VHF radio link was set up from Vanderbijlpark to the Kees Kleynjan Scout Hall in Sasolburg. Echolink is an Internet-based voice technology that allows for the integration of the Internet and amateur radio, enabling high-quality communications to

almost anywhere in the world, whether the stations on either side use PCs or handheld radios.

Contact was made with the Dutch Scouting station of young Scout leader and radio amateur Leo (21 years), callsign PD1LEO. Many of the Sasolburg youngsters talked to Leo, and many interesting questions and answers were exchanged. The youngsters were enthralled and had Leo going for almost an hour, before it was time to say goodbye.



1st Sasolburg Scouts, Alex, Stimy, Tokelo, Brandon, Vincent, Ricardo, Nhlanhla, Michael and Gavin with "ham" Riaan Greeff ZS4PR in contact with Leo, PD1LEO, a Scout Leader in Eindhoven in the Netherlands.



NATIONAL CUB POW WOW 2008

Join the "Carnival of Friends", the Cub Pow Wow to be held at the Okkie Jooste site in the beautiful Jonkershoek valley just outside the town of Stellenbosch. 1st May until after breakfast on 4th May 2008. Cost R600 excluding travel expenses. Contact Donald Alexander Cell 083 428 6032 or donalex@discoverymail.co.za

ULUNDINI SCOUTS CELEBRATE OUR 100th BIRTHDAY



Troop Scouter, Linda Funani and her Scouts celebrate "Scouting's Sunrise" with her Troop on 1st August 2007. They certainly entered into the spirit of the celebration with their "Vuvuzelas" and whistles.



South African Scouting's First Day Cover

Obtainable from SAHQ at R10.80
and the Miniature Sheet for R7.80
or can be obtained from your local
Post Office.

7.119

WIDE GAMES

In the long warm evenings of Summer why play games inside the Scout Den? An ideal time to put on a Wide Game is at camp, or at an especially organized outdoor activity, to include all the Scout outdoor skills learned during the past year. Stalking, tracking, swimming, raft building, bridge building, fire lighting, the list can go on for ever. The well planned and well staged wide game introduces romance and adventure into the programme. It helps develop initiative and leadership qualities, it also helps develop physical fitness and mental alertness.

Have a good theme. You can develop your own from many sources, historical events, adventure fiction, crime stories, newspaper reports etc. Many old Scouting books suggest fantastic wide games.

As already mentioned, a wide game is a cross-country affair. Selecting and studying good territory preferably with a large-scale map, in the field is an important prelude to planning in detail on paper.

When setting up opposing teams, make sure, insofar as it is possible, that there is balance in teams of physical strength and Scouting know-how. At the actual event, give instructions in a written form, in a sealed envelope only to be opened

when the game starts. This will avoid misunderstandings. Use codes and even pictorials in the instructions, a small slice of a photograph of a well-known landmark to identify it, all aimed at getting the Scouts to use a little initiative and more brainpower. If participants are "eliminated", make sure they can go back to base and get another "life". There is nothing more frustrating than being put out of the game in the first ten minutes and then just hanging about for the next two and a half hours or so, doing nothing. "Lives" can be a bit of ribbon or a piece of wool tucked into the belt at the back, that can be tugged out by the opposition. Do not tie the ribbon "life" to the belt as this can be sure to result in a "barney" with injuries possible on either side.

Make sure that all necessary equipment is to hand and that "the rules" state that stealth, cunning and ingenuity are the names of the game not violence. Do have a great Wide Game, it will be one of the lasting memories your Scouts will carry through the rest of their lives.

*"For when the One Great Scorer comes
To write against your name,
He marks not that you won or lost
But how you played the game."*

Grantland Rice

MESSAGES OF PEACE

In March this Centenary Year, about 500 Swiss Scouts gathered at an altitude of 2800m on the glacier, near the resort of Crans-Montana, to build as many igloos as they could to mark the Centenary of the Scout Movement.

It was a global village of igloos, where each construction was meant to represent one of the member countries and territories of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. With 130 igloos built, the Swiss Scouts fell slightly short of their audacious goal, but set a new world record, beating the previous one of 100 igloos. South Africa was represented and SA Scouting will receive a message of peace from those who built the igloo on our behalf, and a photo of the village.



AS FATHER TIME SLIPS INTO 2008

Let us continue with the fantastic celebrations that happened during this year. Scouting came to South Africa in 1908 so we continue celebrating especially our "Gift for Peace", Scouting's contribution to fighting HIV/Aids in our land. This "Gift" is ongoing until this scourge is eradicated...



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